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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Medical Providers, Clinicians, Hospitalists, Healthcare Facilities, Physician Practices, Corrections and Veteran Agencies, School Healthcare, Emergency Services

From: Dr. Siiri Bennett, State Epidemiologist

Subject: **Acute Hepatitis A Case in a Food Service Worker in Presque Isle, Maine**

Date / Time: Friday, June 14, 2019 at 5:00pm

Pages: 2

Priority: **High**

Message ID: 2019PHADV016

Abstract:

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) identified additional cases of acute hepatitis A virus infection in Aroostook County. Close contacts at risk are already being notified. The only risk to the public identified by Maine CDC at this time involves a Presque Isle food service worker.

The Presque Isle case served food and drink while infectious on May 26, 2019 and June 2, 2019.

Maine CDC recommends the hepatitis A vaccine as post-exposure prophylaxis to anyone who ate or worked at the Mai Tai Restaurant in Presque Isle, Maine between 11:00am and 4:30pm on June 2, 2019. Exposed persons can receive post-exposure prophylaxis up to 14 days from exposure, after which the treatment is no longer effective. Anyone who visited the restaurant between 11:00am and 4:30pm on May 26, 2019 is outside the window for which prophylaxis is recommended, but they should watch for symptoms and seek medical attention should they develop symptoms.

Health care providers are encouraged to remain vigilant for hepatitis A infection in persons with consistent symptoms. All cases of hepatitis are reportable in Maine. Providers with suspected cases should report them to Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.

Acute Hepatitis A Case in a Food Service Worker in Presque Isle, Maine

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Background:

Hepatitis A virus is transmitted by the fecal-oral route, commonly through consumption of contaminated food or water. Persons will begin to exhibit symptoms 15-50 days after exposure to the virus. A person is considered infectious approximately two weeks prior to symptom onset until one week after onset of symptoms.

Exposed persons can receive post-exposure prophylaxis up to 14 days from exposure, after which, the treatment is no longer effective. Prophylaxis includes hepatitis A vaccine. Immunocompromised individuals or children under 12 months old should consult their healthcare providers about receiving hepatitis A immune globulin (IG).

Recommendations:

Healthcare providers should consider testing for hepatitis A if patients present with any of the following symptoms:

- | | | |
|------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| ○ Fever | ○ Clay colored stool | ○ Abdominal discomfort |
| ○ Jaundice | ○ Dark urine | ○ Anorexia |
| ○ Nausea | ○ Malaise | ○ Vomiting |

Testing includes an acute hepatitis panel (should include hepatitis A IgM) and liver enzymes.

Reporting:

All cases of suspected and confirmed hepatitis A infection should be reported by phone to the 24/7 disease reporting and consultation line at 1-800-821-5821.

For More Information:

- Maine CDC website <http://www.maine.gov/idepi/>
- Federal CDC's Hepatitis A website <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HA V/index.htm>.
- ACIP Hepatitis A vaccine recommendations: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/hepa.html>.